

CHARD  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1907.

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CHARD:

1908.

YOUNG & SON'S PRINTING WORKS.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

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**RURAL DISTRICT OF CHARD,**  
**IN THE**  
**COUNTY OF SOMERSET.**

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**Annual Report of the Medical**  
**Officer of Health.**

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration the Annual Report of the vital statistics and sanitary condition of your District for the year ending December 31st, 1907, but owing to the fact that my appointment only dates from May, the report will not be as full as I should have wished.

**Physical Features and General Characteristics of the District.**

The district is divided into four localities corresponding to the four registration sub-districts of the Chard Union, viz ;— Ilminster, Chard, Crewkerne, Combe St. Nicholas. It includes within its confines, but not its jurisdiction, the Urban Districts of Ilminster, Chard, and Crewkerne. The area in acres is 52,992. Its geology may be briefly described as Greensand area, overlain here and there by Chalk overlies and based on Lias Clays, which occupy the lower areas. The population of the census taken in 1901 was 13,300, the estimated population for this year being

12,880. The number of inhabited houses at census in 1901 was 3,079, the number of persons per house is 4.3. The district is an agricultural one, a mixture of arable and pasture land. Dairy farming is a prominent feature and important from a public health point of view. There are several factories as described under "Factories and Workshops." Many of the women find employment in the glove, collar, and lace industries of the neighbouring towns.

## Vital Statistics.

Details of the vital statistics will be found in the several tables appended.

### BIRTH, DEATH, INFANTILE MORTALITY AND ZYMOTIC DEATH RATES.

In order to show the relative value of the different rates, I have arranged them, for comparison, with their averages for the past 5 years, and with those for Rural England and Wales for 1906, 1907 figures not being available.

	Births, per 1,000 living.	Deaths, per 1,000 living.	Infant Deaths per 1,000 Births.	Zymotic Deaths per 1,000 living.
Chard Rural Districts ...	19.2	13.0	76.9	.4
Do. average of 10 previous years	24.9	13.6	97.3	.9
Rural England and Wales ...	27.0	15.4	113.0	1.73

The figures this year are worthy of comment, the number births has dropped from 440 in 1901 to 247, being at the rate of 33.0 as compared with 19.2. At the same time a most satisfactory feature is the decrease in infant mortality.

## Infectious Diseases.

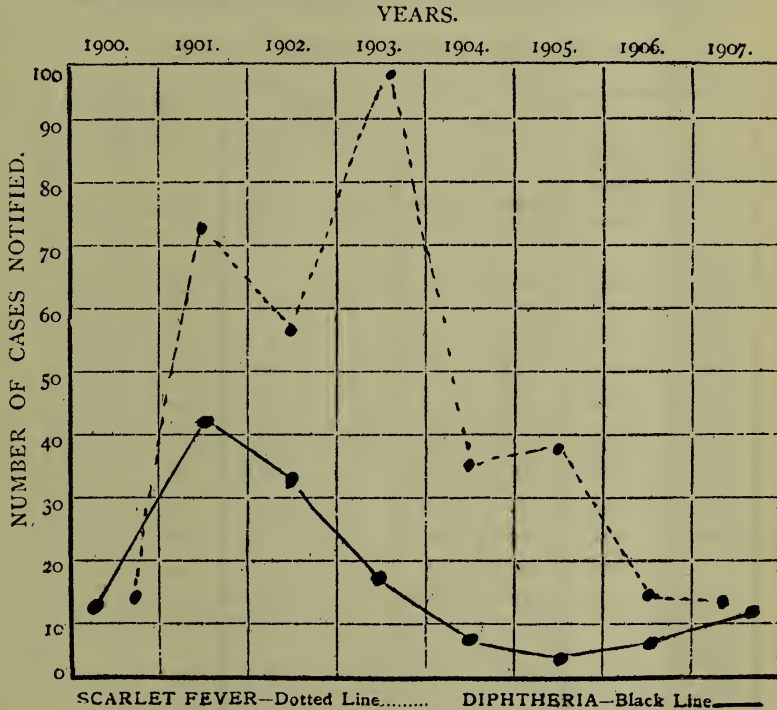
I am pleased to report that the decrease of 1907 has been continued, there were 34 cases notified, only 3 of which proved fatal. Unfortunately, the schools at Misterton and Lopen had to be closed, though, curiously, there were only two cases of infectious disease in each village, the reason being that in each instance one case occurred in the school house itself. Both outbreaks were stopped by the removal of the causes. At Misterton school the cases of Diphtheria were caused by defective drains, and those being remedied, no more cases arose.

At Lopen I made a systematic inspection at all houses where there were children reported ill, and I was fortunate in finding a child who had evidently had scarlet fever, which case being isolated the outbreak did not go further.

The accompanying chart clearly shows the marked decrease in diphtheria and scarlet fever since the year 1900.

## Non-notifiable Infectious and Contagious Diseases.

There have been numerous cases of measles and mumps in the district, and the latter was the cause of so many children being absent from school at Whitelackington, that it was considered advisable to close them for a month.



I have to thank Mr. Carter, the Sanitary Inspector, for his unfailing energy and for the valuable assistance he has rendered me at all times. Mr. Carter's report is appended.

IAN S. SIBBALD.

February, 1908.



TABLE I.

*Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1907 & previous Years.*

Name of District, CHARD RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR	Popula- tion esti- mated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.	
		Number.	Rate *	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births regis- tered.	Number.	Rate *
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1897	17000	414	24.3	46	171.1	242	14.2
1898	14628	403	27.5	37	91.8	204	13.9
1899	14042	332	23.6	35	105.4	228	16.2
1900	13729	307*	22.3	35*	151.7	202*	14.7
1901	13300	440	33.0	25*	56.8	167	12.6
1902	13208	291	22.3	34	116.8	211	15.9
1903	13137	329	25.4	25	75.9	149	11.3
1904	13049	314	24.0	35	111.4	188	14.3
1905	12965	297	22.8	22	74.0	139	10.9
1906	12919	306	23.8	24	78.4	156	12.0
Aver- ages for years 1897— 1906	13797.7	343.3	24.9	31.8	97.3	188.6	13.6
1907	12880	247	19.2	19	76.9	168	13.0

\*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

TABLE II.  
Chard Rural District

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	1. ILMINSTER.				2. CHARD.				3. CREWKERNE.				4. COMBE ST. NICHOLAS.				5. WHOLE DISTRICT.			
YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
1897	6865	161	106	18	1076	90	36	7	4659	118	81	—	2091	45	17	3	14691	414	240	28
1898	6805	155	69	15	1076	81	40	5	4659	113	70	—	2091	54	25	3	14691	403	204	23
1899	4356	99	68	11	1076	76	42	7	4659	110	81	—	2091	47	37	3	12182	332	228	21
1900	4386	118*	66*	17*	1076	78	45*	9*	4659	85*	62*	—	2091	34*	28	1	12182	377	221	27
1901	4281	118	58	11	2927	102	28	1	4241	154	57	7	1851	66	24	6	13330	486	167	25
1902	4259	87	63	11	2906	72	44	12	4217	192	65	7	1801	35	39	5	13330	486	211	35
1903	4238	94	51	10	2901	73	35	4	4197	112	44	10	1801	50	19	5	13337	329	149	26
1904	4219	102	66	9	2882	78	49	12	4173	96	41	9	1775	38	32	5	13049	314	188	35
1905	4193	99	48	7	2873	71	28	2	4149	89	43	9	1750	47	20	4	12265	297	139	22
1906	4147	110	38	5	2930	88	47	11	4142	77	49	6	1700	31	22	2	12919	366	156	24
Averages of Years 1895 to 1904.	4777.9	112.6	63.3	11.4	2174.7	80.9	39.4	7.0	4375.5	104.6	59.3	8.0	1906.7	44.7	26.3	3.4	13235.4	342.8	188.3	26.6
1907	4155	69	59	9	2005	69	51	3	4137	68	40	4	1683	41	18	3	12880	247	168	19

\* The only figures available were for three quarters, and these figures are calculated accordingly.

TABLE III.  
CHARD RURAL DISTRICT.  
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1907.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Cases Notified in whole District.							Total Cases Certified in each Locality.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages---Years.						Ilminster Sub-district	Chard Sub-district	Crewkerne Sub-district	C'mbe S.N'h't's Sub-district
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards				
Small-pox ...											
Cholera ...											
Diphtheria (including Membr'n's croup) ...	11		2	5	2	2		6	2	3	
Erysipelas ...	5				1	4		3		2	
Scarlet fever ...	16		3	13				2	13		1
Typhus fever ...											
Enteric fever ...	2			1	1			2			
Relapsing fever											
Continued fever											
Puerperal fever...											
Plague ...											
Totals ...	34		5	19	4	6		13	15	5	1



TABLE IV,

**Chard Rural District.***Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1907.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES			
	AT SUBJOINED AGES							(AT ALL AGES)			
	all ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Ilminster	Chard	Crewkerne	Combe St. Nicholas
Small-pox ...											
Measles ...											
Scarlet fever ...	1			1						1	
Whooping-cough ...	1		1							1	
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup. ...	2			2						1	1
Croup ...	1	1						1			
Fever { Typhus... Enteric... Other continued											
Epidemic influenza ...	4					1	3		2	2	
Cholera ...											
Plague ...											
Diarrhoea ...											
Enteritis ...											
Puerperal fever ...	1			1					1		
Erysipelas ...	1					1				1	
Other septic diseases ...	3			1	1	1			3		
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tu- berculosis ...	7				4	3		3	3	1	
Other tubercular di- seases ...	6		4	2				1	3	2	
Cancer, malignant di- sease ...	9					5	4	1	5	2	1
Bronchitis ...	17	2				4	11	8	2	5	2
Pneumonia ...	14	2	2	1	2	4	3	3	4	3	4
Pleurisy ...											
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs ...	1					1		1			
Alcoholism ...	1						1			1	
Cirrhosis of liver ...											
Veneral diseases ...											
Premature birth ...	4	4						1	2		1
Diseases and accidents of parturition. ...	3	3						3			
Heart diseases ...	26					10	16	8	11	4	3
Accidents ...	1				1			1			
Suicides ...	3				1	2			1		2
Senile decay ...	23					23		8	4	9	2
Cerebrae apoplexy ...	16					4	12	8	7	1	
Convulsions ...	10	6	3	1				6	1	2	1
Diseases of kidney ...	4					3	1		2	2	
All other causes ...	9	1	1	1	1	2	3	5	1	2	1
All causes ...	168	19	11	8	11	41	78	58	52	40	18

TABLE V.  
**Infant Mortality during the Year 1907.** CHARD RURAL DISTRICT.  
 Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.												Total Deaths under One Year.			
All Causes.	Certified Uncertified																
		1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.		9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria: Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrheal Diseases.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diarrhea, all forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Gastritis, Gastrointestinal Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wasting Diseases.	Congenital Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Want of Breast-milk Starvation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Suffocation, overlaying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes.	Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	6	1	10	1	2	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	19	

District of CHARD RURAL.  
 Births in the year—legitimate, 241; illegitimate, 6.

Population, estimated to middle of 1906—12,880.  
 Deaths from all Causes at all Ages—168.

# Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Sanitary Inspector's Office, Fore Street, Chard.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Chard Rural District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you particulars of my report as Sanitary Inspector for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

## SANITARY DEFECTS FOUND AND REPORTED.

I have made 90 inspections, and 120 re-inspections, nuisances reported 75. Letters are always written to the owners of the property (where defects are found), calling their attention to these defects, and on making re-inspections, I find a great number of the nuisances are remedied ; where this is not the case I obtain permission from your Council to serve Statutory Notices.

## STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED.

Notices to abate nuisance under P.H. Acts, Sec. 91 .....	22
Overcrowding cases reported and dealt with.....	1
Houses condemned as unfit for human habitation ....	1

## SEWAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Those villages which have Public Sewers are :—

ILMINSTER SUB-DISTRICT.	CREWKERNE SUB-DISTRICT.	CHARD SUB-DISTRICT.
Ashill.	Hinton St. George.	South Chard.
Broadway Hill.	Lopen.	Chaffcombe.
Shepton Beauchamp.	Merriott.	Combe St. Nicholas.
Seavington St. Mary.	Wayford.	Buckland St. Mary.
Whitelackington.	Misterton.	Winsham.

Where there is not a Public Sewer the sewage is either discharged in a ditch, a vault is built at the back of the privy, or the pail system is adopted, a system which I very strongly advocate where there is no sewer. All the Sewers and Sewage outfalls are periodically inspected, and kept under close observation.

## BUILDING PLANS SUBMITTED AND PASSED.

Bye-laws with respect to new Buildings and alteration of Buildings are in force in this district, and as I have to pass all Plans and superintend the construction of such Buildings, it

makes a great many extra journeys, as I have to visit each Building at least 4 times, and in a good number of cases more.

No. of new Buildings erected during the year.... 47

Alterations and additions to Buildings..... 5

### WATER SUPPLIES.

The villages which obtain their water wholly or partially from public supplies, are as follows :—

**CHAFFCOMBE.**—The water supply at Chaffcombe comes from a spring in the hill above the village, it runs into a tank, where it is filtered through a foot of charcoal, this charcoal is changed whenever necessary, and the water is piped to a stand pipe in the village. I have suggested a few alterations and improvements for this supply, and they are now under consideration.

**HINTON ST. GEORGE.**—Public supply from Hinton Park continues satisfactory.

**COMBE ST. NICHOLAS.**—The water supply is piped from a tank at Combe Head to stand-pipes in the village, and in many cases is carried into houses and used for drinking and flushing purposes; there is also an arrangement at Combe Head by which the public sewer can be flushed.

**DONYATT.**—Public supply piped to houses from reservoir on Herne Hill.

**BUCKLAND ST. MARY.**—Public supply piped to village, as reported before, continues satisfactory.

**PERRY STREET.**—The water supply to the houses at Perry Street continues satisfactory, and no complaints have been received.

**HUISH.**—Public supply, as reported before, satisfactory.

**MISTERTON.**—The public supply recently laid on is giving general satisfaction, and with very few exceptions is used by the whole village, Lord Portman's houses have their own supply, as previously reported.

**LOPEN.**—The Higher part of the village is supplied by protected wells, and most of the houses in the lower part have water piped to standpipes in the road (this comes from a spring in an orchard above). The very few houses that have not availed themselves of this supply are using fron wells, or springs (samples of which have been taken for analysis), and where the quality is considered doubtful a more satisfactory means of supply is under consideration.



KENNY BRIDGE.—After thorough consideration, and a great amount of trouble and expense, the Council cannot find a practicable means of supplying these houses, and it has therefore been abandoned.

TATWORTH.—At South Chard there is a tank built to collect the water from a spring above, and most of the inhabitants in that neighbourhood can go to this tank and fetch their water.

A more satisfactory supply for the part of the village at Coombses is under consideration.

Those villages which have no public supply, but use the water from wells, springs, streams, &c., and other private sources, are as follows :—Ashill, Chillington, Ilton, Cricket Malherbie, Cricket St. Thomas, Cudworth, Dinnington, Dowlish Wake, Kingston, Seavington, Knowle St. Giles, Shepton Beauchamp, Stocklinch, Wayford, Wambrook, some portions of West Crewkerne, West Dowlish, Whitelackington, Whitestaunton, and Winsham. Very few complaints are received. All the public supplies are inspected and kept under observation.

10 samples of water were analysed by the M.O.H.

## **METHODS ADOPTED TO PREVENT INFECTION FROM NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.**

Immediately on receipt of notification from the Medical Officer of Health, I visit the infected house and see that the case is isolated as well as possible. I inspect the premises respecting the sanitary conditions, and make enquiries as to water and milk supply, and if there is any suspicion about the quality a sample is taken for analysis. When the case is over, I visit the house for disinfection, windows and doors, &c., are sealed up, and sulphur candles are burnt. I am afraid this method is insufficient for the bedding and clothing, &c., and a portable steam disinfection is needed.

## **DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.**

A register is kept, and I have made an inspection of about 70 dairies and cowsheds, 60 of which are registered under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, the others not being liable to registration.

## **SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND BAKE-HOUSES.**

There are 16 slaughter-houses, and 22 bake-houses in the district; these are periodically inspected, and dealt with when necessary.

All stores licensed under the Petroleum Acts are inspected regularly, before the licenses are renewed. There are no altogether.

### **FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**

There are many factories and workshops in the district which are regularly inspected. The factories are as follows :—

Lace (Bobbin net) Factory, Perry Street, Chard.

Nimmer Tooth-brush Factory.

Twine and Yarn Factory, at Lopen.

Hemp, Tow, Carpet Factory, Dowlish Wake, Ilminster.

Sailcloth Factory, at Merriott.

In all the above the Sanitary conditions are good, and in my opinion they are in accordance with the Factory and Workshops' Act. Means of escape in case of fire are provided where necessary.

A register of workshops, also of all outworkers, is kept. There are a great number of outworkers in this district, and when making my usual round of inspections a great number of these houses are inspected.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

EDWARD CARTER,

Assoc. R. San. Inst., Memb. San. Insp.

Assoc., Sanitary Inspector.





